## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS

: Jörg SCHWARZBICH et al

SERIAL NO.

: UNKNOWN

FILED

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Richard M. Goldberg

(Name of Registered Representative and person mailing)

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Applicants and those individuals involved in the preparation and/or prosecution of the above-identified Application have become aware of the following references which the Examiner may consider material to the patentability of the above-identified Application:

| PATENT NO.  | DATE       | COUNTRY |
|-------------|------------|---------|
| 0 780 262   | 06-25-1997 | EPO     |
| 198 26 597  | 12-23-1999 | Germany |
| WO 01/10670 | 02-15-2001 | PCT     |

DT04 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1 4 OCT 2004

| 101 10 138 | 09-05-2002 | Germany |
|------------|------------|---------|
| 34 066     | 10-10-1988 | Austria |
| 36 11 355  | 10-26-1989 | Germany |

One Form PTO/SB/08A is enclosed, which lists the above references. Copies of the above references are enclosed.

Also enclosed is a copy of the International Search Report which discusses the references, along with an English-language translation thereof. In addition, enclosed is a copy of the German Patent Office Search Report and English-language translation thereof. These satisfy the requirement for a concise explanation.

It is requested that the Examiner initial the enclosed Form and return a copy thereof to the undersigned and that the above-identified references be made of record in the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard M. Goldberg

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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|--|--|
|                                   |                       | Application Number     | 10/21119         |  |  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE            |                       | Filing Date            | 10-14-2004       |  |  |
|                                   |                       | First Named Inventor   | Jorg SCHWARZBICH |  |  |
| S                                 | TATEMENT BY APPLICANT | Art Unit               |                  |  |  |
| (Use as many sheets as necessary) |                       | Examiner Name          |                  |  |  |
| Sheet                             | 1 of 1                | Attorney Docket Number | 344/1/083        |  |  |

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number  Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (d known)</sup> | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                       |                          | US-  |                             |  |   |
| -                     |                          | US-  |                             |  |   |
|                       | <del></del>              | US-  |                             | •  |   |
|                       |                          | US-  |                             |  |   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |   |                  |  |   |    |
|--------------------------|--------------|---|------------------|--|---|----|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No.1 | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages |    |
|                          |              | Country Code <sup>3</sup> "Number <sup>4</sup> "Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY       |  | Or Relevant Figures Appear                        | T⁵ |
|                          |              | EP 0 780 262  | 06-25-1997       |  |   |    |
|                          |              | DE 198 26 597   | 12-23-1999       |  |   |    |
|                          |              | WO 01/10670   | 02-15-2001       |  |   |    |
|                          |              | DE 101 10 138   | 09-05-2002       |  |   |    |
|                          |              | AT 34 066   | 10-10-1988       |  |   |    |
|                          |              | DE 36 11 355  | 10-26-1989       |  |   |    |

| Examiner<br>Signature |  | Date<br>Considered |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.